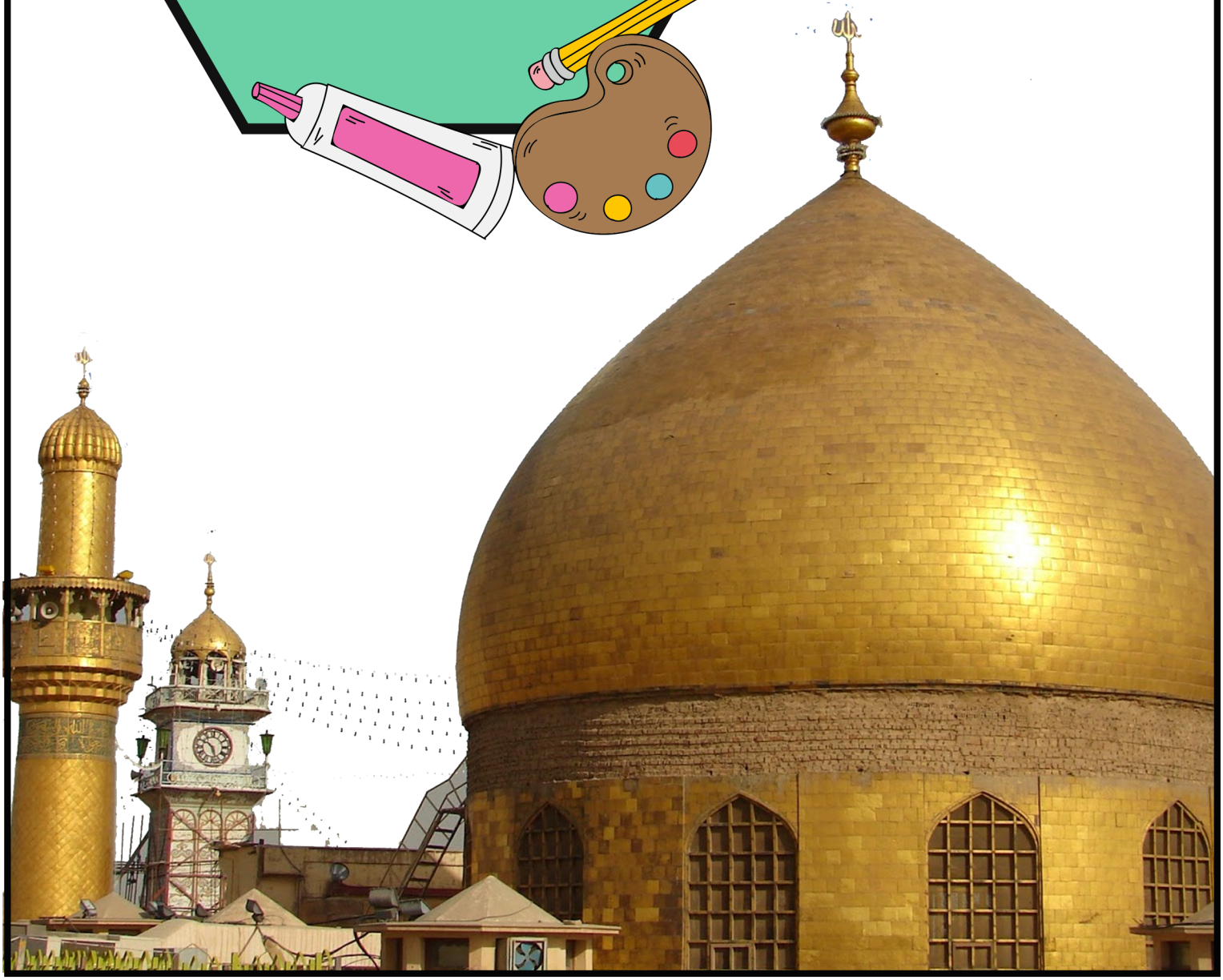
AL-KISA FOUNDATION

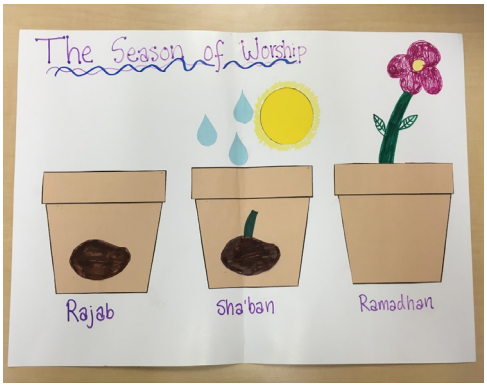
Spiritual Season

Project Booklet



Project #1: The Season of Worship

Objective:
Students will learn about the three months
that constitute "the Season of Worship" (Rajab, Sha'ban, and Ramadhan),
as well as the spiritual significance of each month.

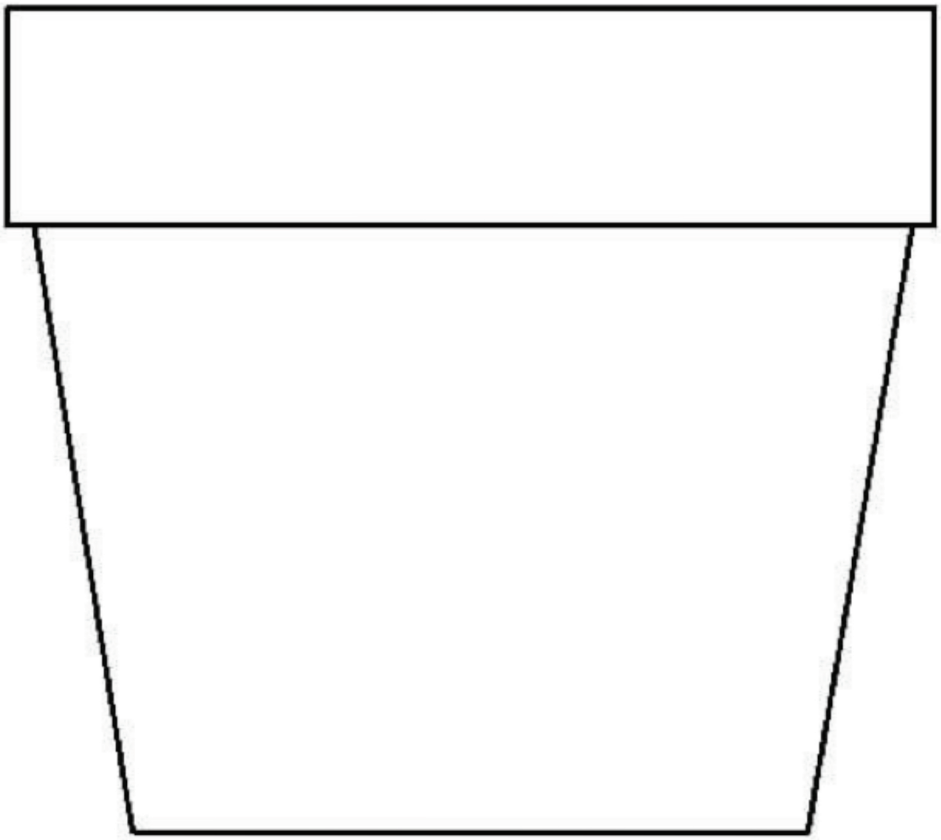


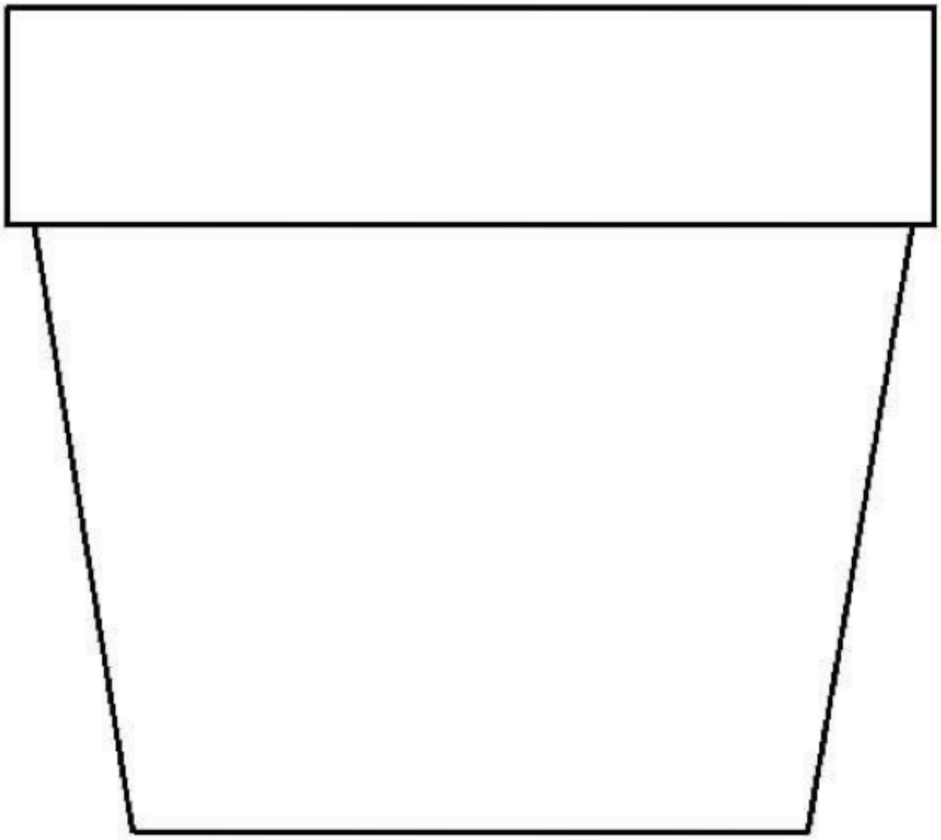
Suggested Ages: 5+

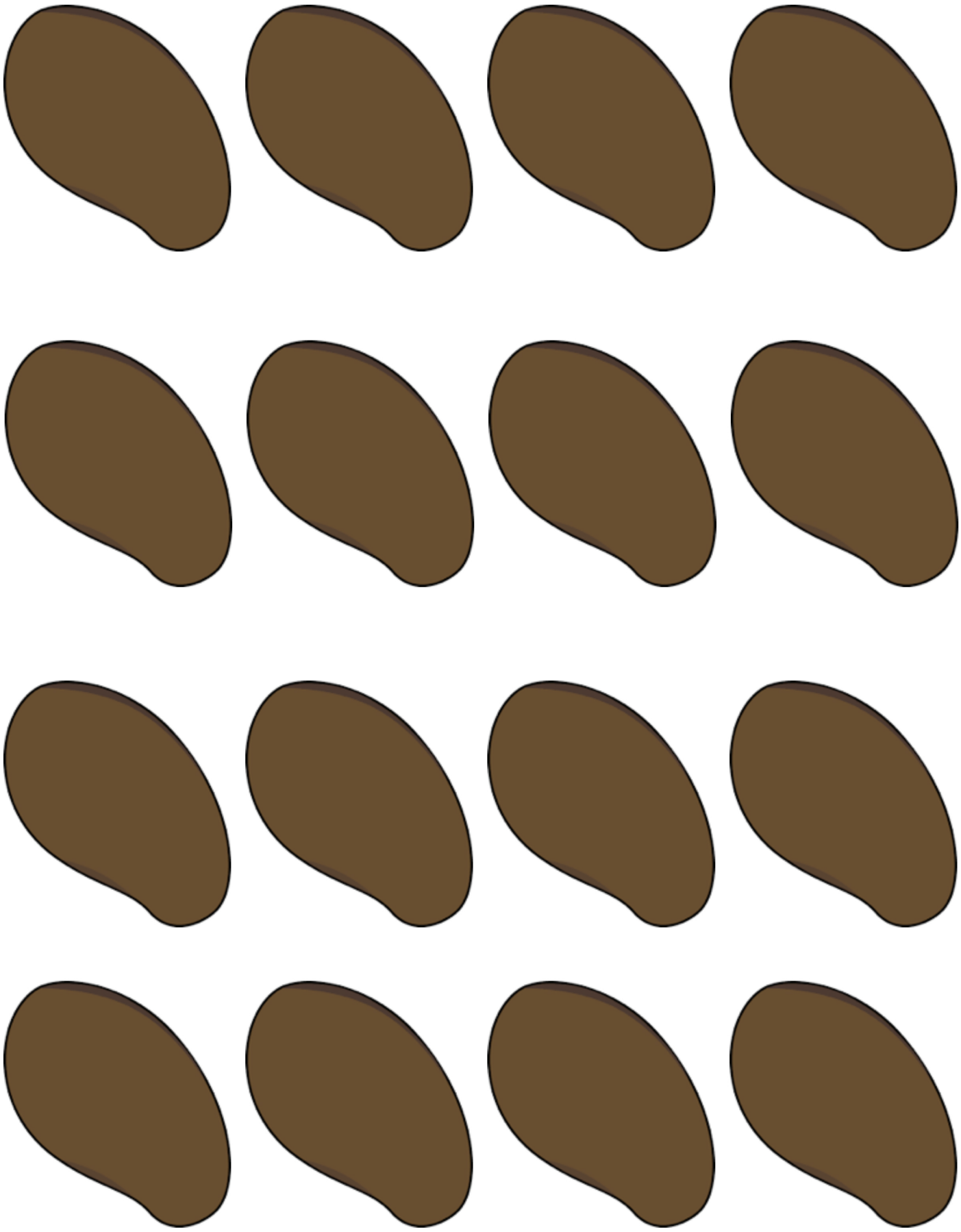
Time: 45 Minutes

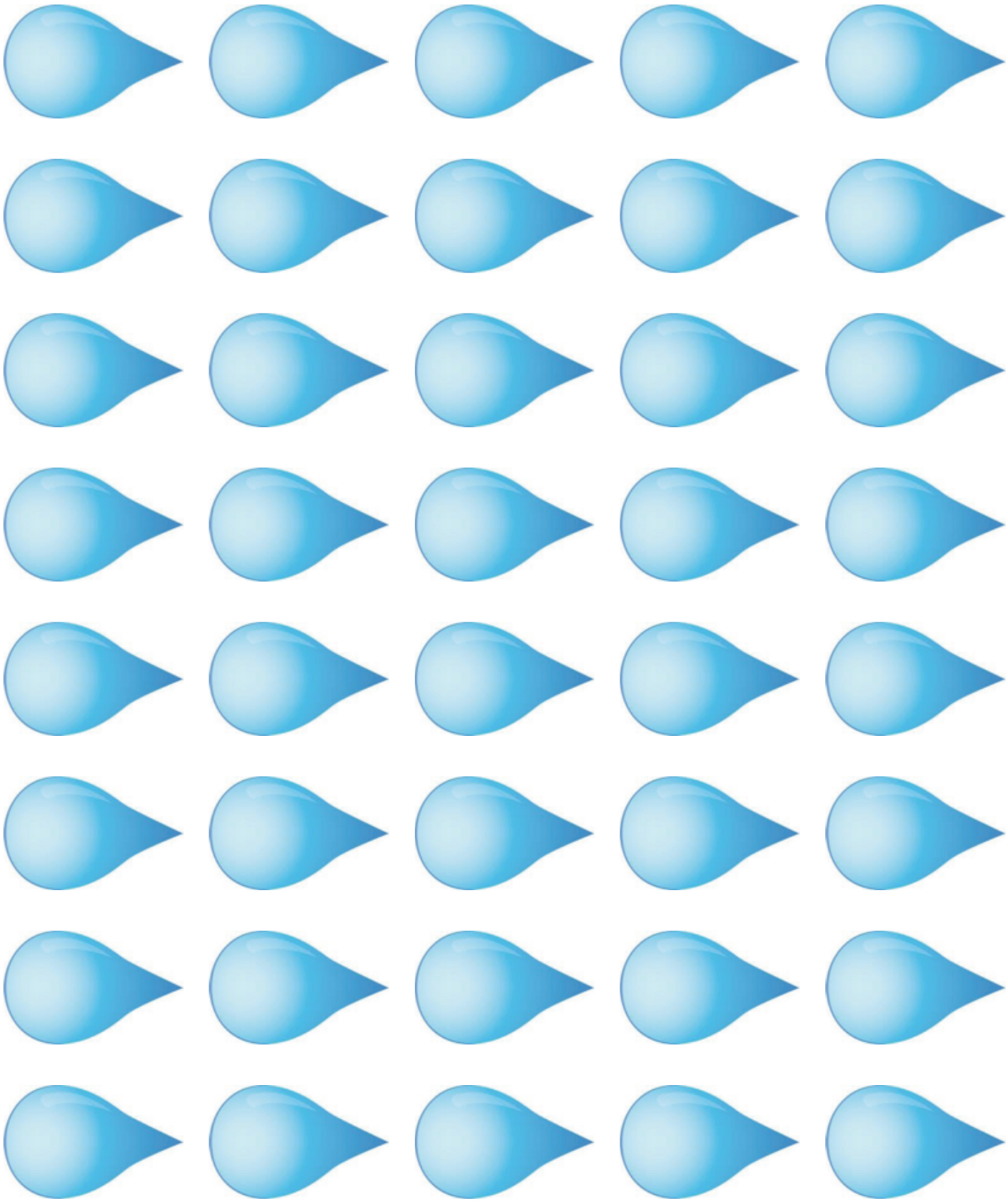
Materials:
- Large paper (Preferably 11"x17")
- Scissors
- Gluesticks
- Markers
- Sun (1 per child), raindrop (3 per child), seed (2 per child), and pot (3 per child) templates (attached)

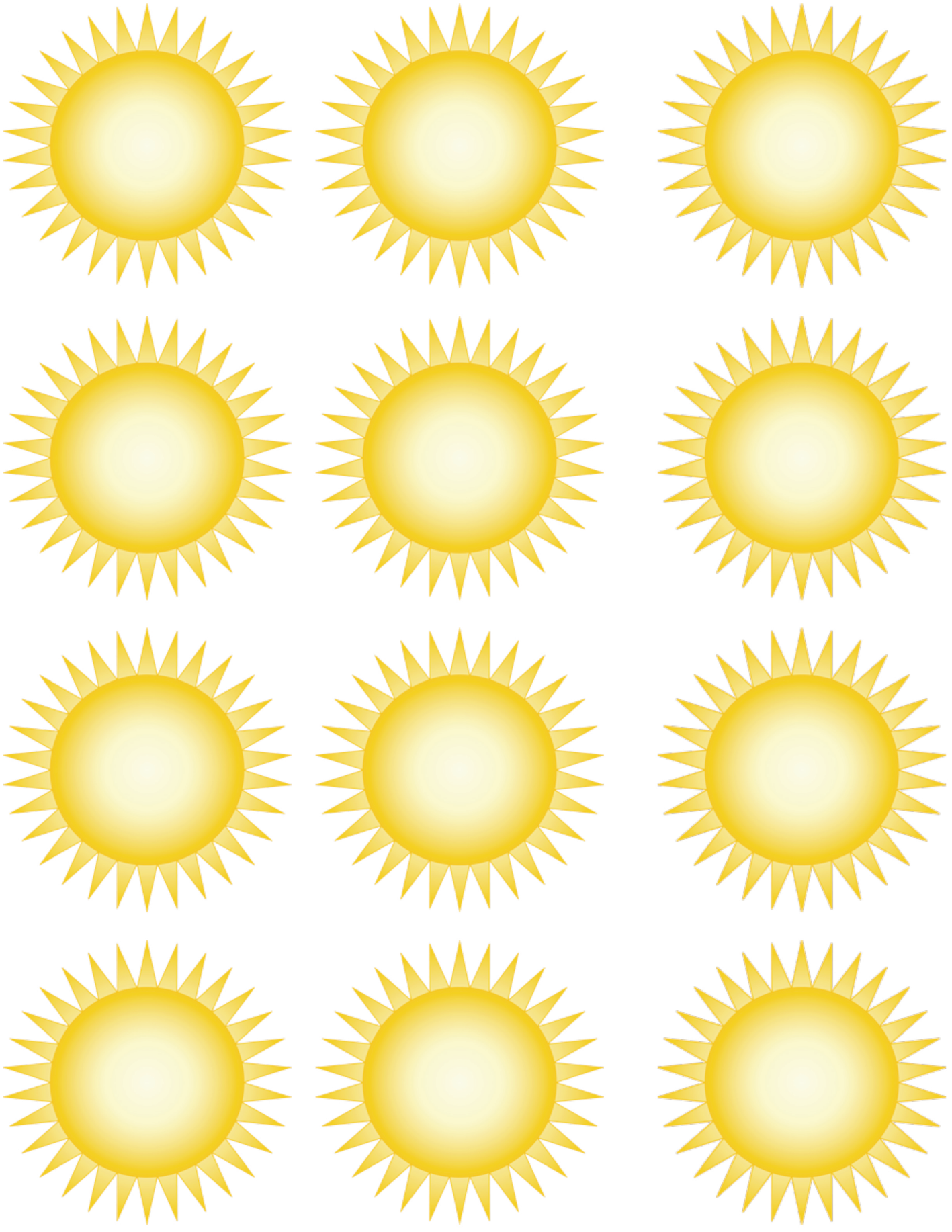
Procedure:
1. Tell students how Allah, out of his kindness and Mercy, has assigned three special months as the Season of Worship. These three months are Rajab, Sha'ban, and Ramadhan. Even though Allah is always Merciful and we should always worship Him, these three months are special months of worship. During these month's, Allah's special Mercy rains down on us, if we take advantage of it. List some of the special dhikr and a'maal of these months (refer to the Mafatih al-Jinan). In order to truly take advantage of Allah's mercy, each month has a special significance.
2. The month of Rajab is the month of seeking forgiveness (istighfar). During this month we plant the seed, by cleaning our souls through forgiveness.
3. Once we have cleaned our souls, it is now time to adorn them in the month of Sha'ban, through Salawaat. During this month, our seed begins to sprout.
4. Finaly, we are ready to be the guests of Allah in the month of Ramadhan. During this month, we can see the fruits of our labor (or worship), as it is during this month, our souls are in full bloom.
5. Tell students that we will be making a project to help us remember what to do during these months.
6. Hand out three pot templates to each student. Have them cut them out and paste them next to each other on their large paper. Using markers, underneath each pot, they should write "Rajab," "Sha'ban," and "Ramadhan" respectively under each pot.
7. Next, in the pot marked "Rajab," they should glue the seed template inside the pot. Remember, this is the month where we plant the seed for our souls to bloom.
8. In the "Sha'ban" pot, they should glue another seed inside. Using marker, they can create a sprout coming out of the seed. On top of the pot, they should glue a sun and three rain drops. Just like plants need sun and water to grow, our souls grow in this month with Salawaat and other good acts.
9. In the "Ramadhan" pot, they should use markers to draw a flower growing out of the pot. Remember, Ramadhan is the month where our souls bloom, provided we took proper care of them in the previous two months!











Project #2: Imam Ali (A) - Siraat al-Mustaqeem

Objective:
To explore the meaning of Siraat Al-Mustaqeem. Children will memorize the sixth verse of Surah al-Fatiha [Qur'an 1:6]. They will learn to seek guidance (hidaya) to the straight path (Siraat al mustaqeem) from Allah. They will learn the hadith that Imam Ali (A) is the straight path. Through the activity, we will exemplify how our deeds affect our Siraat in the hereafter.

Suggested Ages: 6+

Time: 25 Minutes

Materials:
- 6 ft of foam pipe insulation
  (1 ¼" insulation width, 3/8" wall thickness, although variety of sizes will work.
  Cut in half to form track)
- Marbles
- Piece of duct tape
- Any objects to prop up/manipulate the track (cones, pillows, chairs, etc)

Procedure:
1. **Greet Students:** Salaamun Alaykum everyone! Alhamdullilah, all Praise be to Allah, we're so thankful Allah has allowed us to be together again so we can learn and become closer to Him!
2. **Introduce Topic:** Who can tell me why we're here today? (Wait for children to respond.) Yes! Alhamdulillah, Allah has given us the tawfeeq to learn more about our beloved Imam Ali Amirul Mu'mineen (A) so that we may follow him on the straight path (Siraat al-Mustaqeem) to reach Allah!
3. Can anyone remember where we hear the word Siraat al-Mustaqeem? That's right! The very first Surah of the Quran, Surah al-Fatiha, is one of the places in the Quran where we ask Allah to guide us to the straight path. We say Ihdinaas-Siraat al-Mustaqeem. Read Surah al-Fatiha together and repeat the 6th verse. Remind the children that this is a du'a for guidance.
4. Who knows what Siraat al-Mustaqeem means? What does it mean to be on Siraat al-Mustaqeem? How do we stay on Siraat al-Mustaqeem? Answers:
5. Ihdina as-Siraat al Mustaqeem means "Guide us to the Right path" or "Show us the Right way." When we ask Allah to guide us to the right path, we are asking Him to help our soul reach its destination. We are here in this world for a reason: to become closer to Allah.
6. To be on Siraat al-Mustaqeem means to have intense/sincere love and obedience for the rightly guided ones, the ones whom Allah made perfect. Who are they? Yes! They are the Ahlul Bayt (A)!
7. Let's make a Du'a to Allah: O Allah, lead us to the love and obedience of Muhammad (s) and his family members.
8. When you love someone, you do what they love and you stay away from what they dislike. When you love Ahlul Bayt (A), you do what they love, and what they love is what Allah loves. When you love Ahlul Bayt (A), you stay away from what they dislike, because it is what Allah dislikes. What are some things that Allah loves you to do, and what are some things that Allah dislikes for you to do? This is called Tawalli. (Write examples on the board for children to use while constructing their siraat activity)
9. You stay on Siraat al-Mustaqeem by also doing Tabarri. This means you stay away and feel dislike

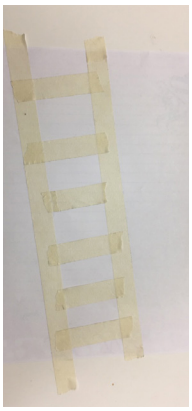
towards the enemies of the Ahlul Bayt (A) and their bad deeds.

10. Imam as-Sadiq (A) has said that "Imam Ali (A) is Siraat al-Mustaqeem" (Maani ul-Akbar, P. 32). Discuss examples of how the Imam (A) is a form of guidance.

Group Activity:

1. "The Siraat in this life is the Imam (A) whose obedience is incumbent; whoever knows him in this life and follows his guidance will be able to pass on the (other) Siraat, which is a path over hell in the hereafter, and whoever does not know him in this life, his feet will slip away from the Siraat in the hereafter so he falls into the fire of hell." (Ma'ani al-Akhbar, P. 13-14 and Bihaar ul-Anwaar, Vol. 8, P. 66)
2. Construct a foam track as pictured above. Explain to the children that when we obey the Imam in this world, it is building a strong and wide Siraat for us in the akhira, so that we can pass on it easily and not fall into the blazing fire of hell. Also, when we disobey the Imam (A), we are thinning out our Siraat in the akhira, like a strand of hair, so it will be very hard to pass on it without falling into the fire.
3. Have the children imagine that they are the marble. They should then set up the track so the marble rolls down straight and swift without derailing. Explain that this is an analogy that wil help us understand how our souls will travel on Siraat when we obey our Imam (A). Then, provide examples of disobedience to the Imam, and for every disobedience, the children should place an obstruction on the path. The marble will stop or derail us from the Siraat as a result of disobedience. Introduce the concept of tawbah. Rajab is the month of istighfaar and tawbah. Have the children repeat istighfaar together. As a result of istighfaar, they are allowed to remove an obstruction from the track. Provide examples of the person (marble) following the Imam and staying away from wickedness and allow them to see how the Siraat becomes clear and wide in the hereafter, allowing us to reach our goal — to reach Allah on the straight path through obedience to our Imam (A).
4. Allow the children to be creative and to provide examples and adjust the fire pit beneath to their imagination and to construct the perfect end to their imagination. End with Surah al-Fatiha and send salaam and allegiance to Imam az-Zaman (AJ).

Individual Activity:



Materials:

- White Cardstock
- Masking tape
- Do A Dot Art! Markers
- Scissors to cut tape into thinner or smaller strips

Procedure:

1. Use the same lesson explanation as above.
2. Explain that our goal is to reach Allah by following the Ahlul Bayt (A) and Imam Ali (A), who is Siraat ul-Mustaqeem. If we do good deeds, we will remain on the siraat, which will help us become closer to Allah and get to Jannah. On the Day of Judgment, it will be easier for us to cross the siraat, or bridge, to enter Jannah. By following the Ahlul Bayt (A), we will remain on this path.
3. Using masking tape, have students create a bridge on their paper.
4. Direct the children in stamping fire colors below the bridge and to the left of the paper, followed by heavenly colors above the bridge and to the right of the paper.
5. Finally, remove the tape to reveal the bridge.

Project #3: Mer'aj - The Ascension

Objective:
Students will learn about the event of Me'raj, the Prophet's (S) ascension to the Heavens.

Exalted is He who took His Servant
by night from Masjid al-Haram to
Masjid al- Aqsa, whose surroundings
We have blessed, to show him of Our
signs. [17:1]

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 Minutes

Materials:
- Light blue paper/plastic cups
- White tissue paper
- String (cut into 12" pieces)
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Gluesticks
- Me'raj templates (Attached)

Procedure:
1. Talk to the children about the event of the Me'raj. This is when the Prophet (S) went up to the heavens on the Buraq, a special animal. In the night, he was taken from the home of Umme Hani (Imam Ali's sister) to Masjid al-Haram, and from there to Masjid al-Aqsa. From Masjid al-Aqsa, he ascended up to the heavens. Allah spoke to him here, and this is also where the command for Salaah and wudhu were given. Allah has talked about this event in Surah al-Isra.
2. Tell the children that we will be creating a project to demonstrate this event.
3. Pass out a blue cup and piece of tissue paper to each student.
4. Have them cut out clouds using the tissue paper and glue their clouds onto the outside of the cup. Using scissors, have them pierce a hole in the bottom of the cup. Set cup aside to dry.
5. Have students cut out the Quran cloud and Prophet templates (attached).
6. Pass out a 12" piece of string to each student. Have them tape the Quran cloud to one end of the string. They should pass the other end of the string through the hole they made in the cup. Note that the cup should be sitting upside down, so the cloud is on the bottom end of the cup.
7. Then, they should tape the Prophet (S) cutout on the other end of the string. When they pull the cloud up, the Prophet should go into the cup, signifying his ascension to the heavens.

Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from Masjid al-Haram to Masjid al- Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. [17:1]

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